



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **City Receives SHPO Grant**

*The City of Fairmont's Planning Department obtains grant to work towards restoration of Old Firehouse*

FAIRMONT, WV- September 2, 2014- The City of Fairmont Department of Planning & Development has received a grant in the amount of \$47,850 from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to begin working on the restoration of the old firehouse building located on Monroe Street. The grant will assist with replacement of the roof at the building. This is the first step in its redevelopment into Firehouse Studios, an art and culture center.

"Firehouse Studios was conceived as an arts collaborative project that will house studio art space, classrooms, a performance stage, and music studios," said Katherine Wyrosdick, Director of Planning & Development for the City of Fairmont. There are several entities interested in the space and restoration will now begin with replacing the roof. "We have to begin with the roof in the restoration of the building to make sure that all the leaks are taken care of before work can begin inside," she said.

This grant is 50/50 matching and is good for one year. Quotes for the job were obtained to begin the grant writing process and determine the amount of funds needed for the request, but now that the grant has been awarded, the bidding process for the job will begin. The Planning & Development office is hoping to have the roof replaced before winter.

The old firehouse was opened in 1916 as City Hall, the fire and police departments, as well as all other city offices. The building served as City Hall until 1983 when operations moved into the J. Harper Meredith building. The fire and police departments moved out in 2006 to Quincy Street. Public Works used the building up until this year.

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